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**ITC JOINT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING  
50<sup>th</sup> Session, 4 July 2016**

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY VAANCHIG PUREVDORJ,  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MONGOLIA**

**Geneva, July 4, 2016**

Mr Chair,  
Mr. Director-General Roberto Azevedo,  
Mr. Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi,  
Madam Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez,  
Excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate Madam Executive Director and all the ITC staff for the achievements and contribution this organization has made in the last a year and half by adopting a proactive and solution-oriented, innovative approach which are delivering tangible results, in particular in terms of the raising the competitiveness of Small and medium enterprises and their integration into the global and regional value chains, research support for both public and private sector.

In this connection, we would like express our appreciation to the ITC and the donor countries for providing continued support to developing countries, in particular recognizing the special needs of landlocked developing countries like Mongolia through its technical assistance programs aimed at expanding their participation in global trade, thus for making trade as a tool for inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

Mongolia has been maintaining a close cooperation with the ITC since the very beginning of its transition to a market economy in the early 1990s. Partnership with the ITC has been playing an important role in implementing the country's development agenda on promoting inclusive trade growth and job creation through export diversification, product development, promotion of competitiveness of small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) and strengthening capacity of trade and investment support institutions (TISIs).

Concerning the recent activities, we worked together with ITC on raising awareness about the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which contains concrete measures to help LLDCs integrate into the multilateral trading system. ITC also supported Mongolia in categorizing 'A' provisions of the TFA Agreement. In the coming future, we look forward to working closely with the ITC on developing and carrying out technical assistance projects for identifying and implementing of Category 'C' provisions of the TFA and establishing and strengthening of National Trade Facilitation Committee of Mongolia as well as continue to collaborate on raising awareness among public and private stakeholders about the TFA.

Furthermore, the advisory services and tools provided by the ITC to Mongolian private sector have been highly instrumental in promoting enterprise competitiveness, trade finance and introducing e-business solutions for the Mongolian SMEs. The Empowering Women to Trade Programme launched by the ITC has brought tangible results for the economic empowerment of women in Mongolia. The ITC facilitated the participation of women-owned wool and cashmere businesses of Mongolia in trade shows in Mongolia, New York, and Dubai, where women entrepreneurs met prospective buyers and made sales worth over US\$260,000. This is has been an important step in terms of supporting their access to international markets. Mongolia is also looking forward to benefit from the ITC's recent innovative initiatives like online platforms initiative and its activities aimed for strengthening the performance of trade and investment support institutions (TISIs).

We do believe that all these would provide a synergy towards increasing the trade capacity of Mongolia, and hope that we will enjoy a broad support from the donor community as well.

With regard to the ITC's Operational Plan, we are pleased to see that in terms of strategy the ITC 2016 sets itself on effective implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has embedded important areas such as promoting inclusive economic growth, in particular the economic empowerment of women and youth, job creation and poverty reduction using trade a driver for sustainable development. We would like to encourage the ITC to continue undertaking demand-driven and solution-oriented approach in delivering its trade-related technical assistance and services.

In this regard, we call upon donor communities to continue its valuable financial support to the ITC and developing countries that benefit from its programs and projects on trade promotion and SMEs development.

I thank you for your attention.